



CAN-ALLIANCE QUARTERLY



Welcome members and neighbours to “CAN - Alliance Quarterly “, the Charles Area Neighbours newsletter for residential and business members in Bloor-Yorkville South, to Charles between Church and Yonge (both sides of the bordering streets) and extended area south to Gloucester. You don’t have to be in the area to be a member and membership is free.

We endeavour to provide a consolidated voice for our neighbours

Presently we have a cozy geographical area that it is heavily populated with our member condominiums, apartments and businesses. These members represent approximately 6500 residents and 10 businesses. However this area is rapidly expanding with a number of new condo developments on the horizon. Since the Alliance stretches across the borders of Wards 11 and 13, we'll be working with both Councillor Wong-Tam and Layton.

CAN-Alliance's goal is to provide a consolidated voice for its members and to be proactive on issues which impact Bloor-Yorkville South. Our goal is to ensure those issues that impact our quality of life, security and prosperity are effectively planned and managed by working closely with officials in Municipal and Ontario Governments, developers and businesses. Our newsletter is intended to update our member neighbours on issues that CAN-Alliance is working on and to inform you on what is being advocated in support of the neighbourhood. If you miss our newsletters you can visit our new website at CAN-Alliance.ca.

(see image below)

Administrative Members

Trevor Laingchild, Chairman
trevor.laingchild@can-alliance.ca
Jodi Cassidy, Secretary
jodi.cassidy@can-alliance.ca

Committees

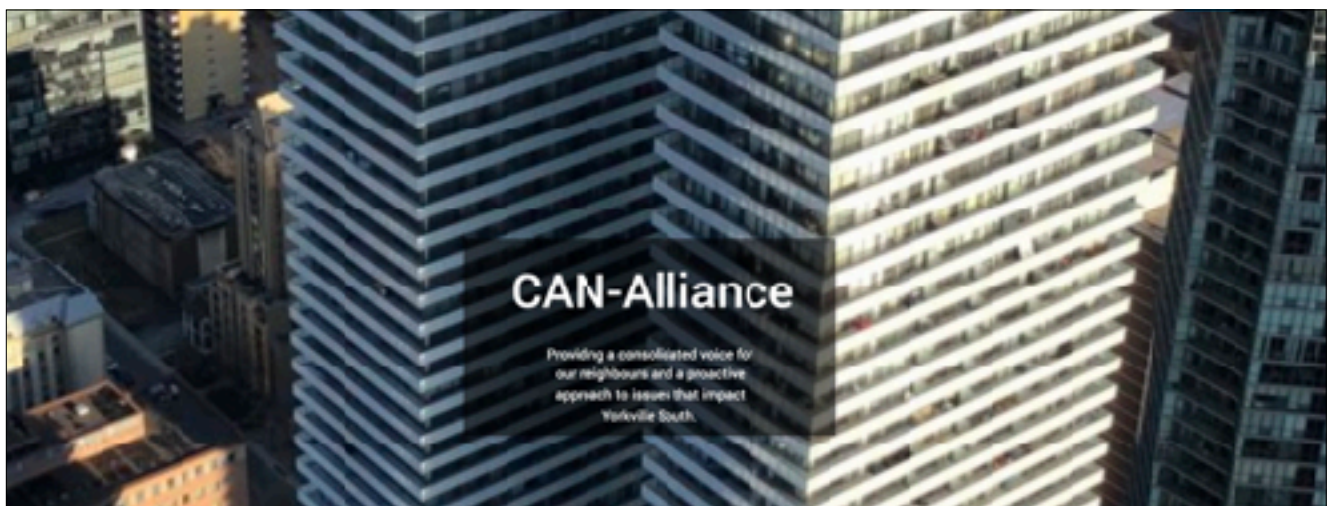
Crime Prevention:
cplc@can-alliance.ca

Parks & Curb-side development:
parks@can-alliance.ca

Communications:
comms@can-alliance.ca

Volunteers

We're looking for volunteers for a few hours a month in a variety of areas from Website and Digital Communications to Membership Admin. Send us an email and tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience.
info@CAN-Alliance.ca



Crime and Safety Report

Crime Prevention Committee

Meeting 1: November 6, 2019

A group of concerned neighbours gathered at our first meeting about safety in our neighbourhood which was set up as a “Town Hall” and was the jumping off point to forming CAN-Alliance. In attendance representatives from 20+ neighbour residents and businesses and from the City, Councillors Wong-Tam (and staff) & a representative from Councillor Layton’s office; Police officers from the Neighbourhood Officer Program; Representatives from Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Toronto Public Health, and Community Crisis Response.

Residents raised concerns about the operations of Sanctuary, citing drug trafficking, garbage dumping, random violence, theft, graffiti, escalating security costs and the associated impacts on the usability of the adjacent park and sidewalks. Numerous victim statements were presented and the main request from residents and business owners was for additional and accelerated police responses. There was also an expressed desire to see Sanctuary take more responsibility for the property standards of their building exterior and to see the City step up MLS by-law enforcement.



Meeting 1 Results:

- Toronto Police 51 Division add CAN-Alliance area to Neighbourhood Officer program providing additional foot and bike patrol.
- City staff in attendance noted service requests
- It was agreed by all that going forward there will be a monthly “safety meeting” with City Hall to affect necessary changes

Meeting 2: January 9, 2020 & January 16, 2020

Jan 9: Over the holidays several reports had been lodged to Councillors Wong-Tam regarding groups of tents set up at the Sanctuary and increased incidents of violent behaviour aimed at passersby and people in the park. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation representatives supported our reports on violence as well as needles and broken glass in the flower beds and shrubbery.

Sanctuary cited the housing crisis and no space in shelters (especially for couples) as the reason for the encampment. The City acknowledged the housing crisis but informed Sanctuary that the encampments are unacceptable, City Staff to help relocate these individuals and couples to shelters.

Jan 16th: Updates from Sanctuary and City staff, 4 of the 10 individuals are currently still in the encampment. Sanctuary were successful in moving one of the remaining tents to the back but that one tent remains in the front. Over the weekend, the garbage out front became really bad which resulted in Sanctuary bringing in a clean-up crew.

Meeting 3: January 28, 2020

Residents and representatives from CAN-Alliance expressed serious safety concerns that continue to escalate on and around Sanctuary’s property and in George Hislop Park. Threatening behaviour, violence and harassment are affecting the mental health and wellbeing of residents and their families to the point some have sought trauma counselling for their children. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff expressed that their frontline staff have also experienced and been the target this behaviour, and are at risk of harm due to needles and broken glass in the flower beds and shrubbery.

Parks Ambassadors visit downtown parks at least two times per day, including George Hislop and stated that George Hislop Park is among the highest for violence out of all downtown parks. *(Parks Ambassadors are a responsive, mobile crew, day-to-day work. Parks Ambassadors work to ensure the city’s parks are accessible, equitable and safe places for all.)*

Meeting 4: March 5th, 2020

Hosted at Sanctuary site, this Safety Meeting was a progress update.

City staff reported the encampment was reduced to one tent in the Sanctuary backyard. Parks dept. reported their concern about the gate of the newly installed fence being propped open and that there were reports of continued public alcohol and drug abuse, those activities were spilling out into the park where there were further reports of violence and threats to park users. Sanctuary voiced concern that some past backyard users had drug overdoses and that the gate being closed made access difficult for the staff. However, most meeting attendees agreed that drug use and overdoses in their backyard needed to be reviewed and discussed.

Toronto Public Health and Downtown East Action Plan reported they were still working with Sanctuary on client “Code of Conduct” and to develop a long-term plan to improve service delivery and community relations. Councillor Wong-Tam asks CAN-Alliance to work with its area residents to develop a Good Neighbour policy.

Parks department provided to the group of the Parks renovation concepts/plans. City announced the meetings will move to quarterly.

Meeting 2 Results:

- Sanctuary must move tents. Municipal Licensing and Standards indicated encampments are a clear violation of multiple property standards bylaws
- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) deployed a command centre inside Sanctuary. In coordination with Streets to Homes, SSHA to-date found shelter for individuals and the couples.
- SSHA provides training for Sanctuary staff to help them gain better access to City’s shelter and housing.. Also informed them that there are a number of shelters that can accommodate couples.
- Toronto Public Health working with Sanctuary to develop a Code of Conduct for their clients and Downtown East Action Plan helping Sanctuary to develop along-term strategic plan to improve service delivery and community relations.

Meeting 3 Results:

- Parks, Forestry, and Recreation installed fencing and a gate on the city-owned property to help delineate property boundaries between George Hislop Park and Sanctuary’s backyard and provide a safer environment.
- SSHA reported with over 50 interactions at Sanctuary:
 - 4 individuals accepted shelter, 6 have turned down shelter.
 - 4 new housing applications were completed.

Meeting 4 Results:

- Parks will be looking at moving the gate to face the sidewalk at the bottom of Sanctuary property
- CAN-Alliance w/ its residents will devise a framework for good neighbour policy
- Meetings will move to quarterly

Meeting 5 Scheduled for:

- Further meetings on hold due to COVID

More On Crime and Safety

Crime Prevention and Safety

CAN-Alliance joined as a member of (CPLC) Community Policing Liaison Committee. Representatives from various Business Improvement and Resident Associations work together with Police in identifying, prioritizing, and problem-solving of local policing issues. The focus is being proactive on crime prevention and safety measures, community relations, education, mobilization and communication.

Report. Report. Report.

The Toronto Police stress the critical importance of reporting crime and are asking our members to please REPORT, REPORT, REPORT all incidence of violence and harassment or any type of threatening behaviour. [Click here to reporting crimes, online or by telephone.](#)

Reporting Streetscape Issues

Issues ranging from garbage overflow to needles on the ground or in flower beds as well as graffiti on public property and posters pasted to hydro poles all should be directed to 311.

When calling 311, they will give you a file number which you should keep. If your complaint has not been addressed after a number of days, you should call them again and ask for an update. We have had some good success with dealing with 311 but sometimes it does require a follow-up call.

A Consolidated Voice

Linear Parks Initiatives

We're also working with Toronto Parks in support of projects that foster the public safety and recreation in the system of parks that start at "George Hislop Park" (Charles St.) travelling south to Gloucester's "James Canning Gardens".

Currently James Canning Gardens is under renovation, if you walk by you can see the plans taking shape. CAN-Alliance had a sneak peak at the plans for the other two parks and similar renovations are sketched out and will work their way to George Hislop Park over the coming months. Read more and view the Linear Parks concepts on [our website](#).

COVIDiots and COVID Encampment

They call them "Covidiots", people who are not physical distancing, our "new normal"...The City of Toronto announces regularly on their "important work across the city" — Media release dated May 13, 2020 stated "Yesterday, the City received 65 complaints involving people using outdoor amenities or not practising physical distancing in parks or squares. Police issued four tickets – bringing the total number of tickets issued since May 1 to 59 tickets."



Sanctuary / George Hislop encampment east side of park

Meanwhile there is no physical distancing in the Covid Camps. Covid Crime is escalating daily - with a guy swinging his hammer at passersby periodically, dumpster fires to the public drug and alcohol abuse. Has anyone asked where the drugs coming from?

Instead of getting people in to shelters, portable toilets have been set up in-front of the Sanctuary and free Tents are being distributed.

I guess it's true what they say, misery love company, not that it makes us feel better knowing we're not the only ones living through this volatile situation but it is interesting to see how other cities are dealing with it.

"**San Francisco** is being sued by a law school and residents and businesses in the inner-city **Tenderloin District** who argue sidewalks are "unsanitary, unsafe, and often impassable" as homeless people crowd streets amid the coronavirus pandemic. " (from foxnews - SanFran Neighbourhood sues.)

CAN-Alliance along with many area residents have been writing Councillor Wong-Tam's office and the Police every week. We have had little response from the councillor's office, except to say that "Shelter Support & Housing Administration responded with *Homeless encampment clearings have been put on hold until further notice* and The mayor has also made it clear that *the city has continued to **clean** encampment areas but we are not **clearing** them during this public health situation*". However, our Police have been in contact with us frequently and are trying to manage the situation.

CAN-Alliance is appealing to residents of Bloor-Yorkville south (Bloor to Charles) to please write to both [Councillor Layton](#) and [Councillor Wong-Tam](#) who are responsible for area. Together we can make the neighbourhood safe again! Feel free to include us cplc@can-alliance.ca.



George Hislop park west side

CONTACT 311

Garbage • Violent Behaviour • Homeless Encampments • Non-compliance with the [Physical Distancing by-law](#)

To report issues in a greenspace, public square or City park online...

WEB: toronto.ca/311

Email: 311@toronto.ca

By Telephone...

Call: 311 or our Parks Ambassador, Troy Ford at 416-771-3042.

For persons sleeping on the streets call: Streets to Homes at 416-392-0090.

If not successful with the above numbers: call 311, request that they report it to Outreach, which is opened 7 am-11 pm. They will forward the complaint and are said to respond to the situation within four hours.

Neighbourhood Development Watch

55C - 55 Charles St E

Site Plan approval:

- 48-storey residential building.
- 541 condominium units
- 100 rental replacement units (former tenants of 55, 61-63 Charles).

68 Charles St E

Proposed application:

- 47-storey mixed-use building
- 408 residential dwelling units
- 20 rental replacement units
- 349 square metres of retail
- Formerly 628, 634, 636 & 638 Church and 68 & 70 Charles East.

625 Church (at Charles)

Development Proposal:

- 59 storey mix-use tower (current Traders Building)
- retain the west elevation of the existing 6-storey building and portion of north and south elevations.
- 10,672 square metres of office and retail
- 651 dwelling units
- 260 parking spaces

33 Isabella (Isabella Court) Infill

Development Proposal:

- 4 storey building on west side of 27 storey Isabella Court,
- 15 apartments and ground floor administrative offices.

[Visit our Development Watch page for more information.](#)

Where to Write

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam,

Ward 13, Toronto Centre

councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca

Councillor Mike Layton

Ward 11, University Rosedale

councillor_layton@toronto.ca

Sergeant Henry Dyck,

Henry.Dyck@torontopolice.on.ca

Staff Sergeant, Todd Gowan,

Todd.Gowan@torontopolice.on.ca



Sanctuary front yard